

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

MICHAEL J. McMAHON ET AL.

SERIAL NUMBER:

EXAMINER:

FILED: MARCH 16, 2004

GROUP ART UNIT:

FOR: TILTLESS BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINER LINER
SYSTEM FOR USE WITH BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINERS

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

HONORABLE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. BOX 1450
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313-1450

SIR:

In connection with the above-identified patent application, and the prosecution thereof before the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and in compliance with the duty of disclosure as set forth in 37 CFR 1.56, Applicants hereby desire to make of record, in accordance with 37 CFR 1.97, the following PRIOR ART of which Applicants are aware and which is also listed upon the attached PTO FORM 1449:

Information Disclosure Statement
**TILTLESS BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINER LINER
SYSTEM FOR USE WITH BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINERS**
Michael J. McMahon et al.

Narahara et al.	6,250,488
Nickell	6,207,592
Podd	5,890,611
Matias	5,657,896
Matias	5,542,563
Podd et al.	5,529,177
Podd	5,511,681
Stopper	5,489,037
Matias	5,421,476
Cuthbertson	5,340,218
Matias	5,222,621
Podd, Sr. et al.	5,193,710
Podd, Jr. et al.	5,152,735
Matias	5,137,170
Podd, Sr. et al.	5,040,693
Podd	4,884,722
Moore	4,541,765
Derby et al.	4,479,243
Williamson et al.	4,143,796
FRANCE	2,461,661

The present invention, in connection with which the present patent application is being prosecuted, is directed toward a bulk material cargo container liner system which comprises an inflatable bulk material cargo container liner having at least one vacuum discharge tube member disposed internally within the bulk material cargo container liner and extending throughout the longitudinal extent thereof for discharging bulk cargo material outwardly from the bulk material cargo container liner, and at least one inflatable air bag

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component which also extends throughout the longitudinal extent of the bulk material cargo container liner and which is initially disposed in a deflated state but which is adapted to be disposed in an inflated state when the bulk cargo material can no longer be evacuated under natural gravitational forces. By inflating the at least one inflatable air bag component, the angle of repose of the bulk cargo material disposed internally within the bulk material cargo container liner is effectively altered in a positive manner so as to cause the bulk cargo material to again flow toward the at least one vacuum discharge tube member whereby the bulk cargo material can be evacuated from the bulk material cargo container liner without the need for tilting the bulk material cargo container and the liner contained therein.

While the cited **PRIOR ART** is relevant to the present invention in that the **PRIOR ART** discloses conventional bulk container liners, it is submitted that such **PRIOR ART** patent publications cited above do not disclose the particular aforementioned features of the present invention, and therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the examiner should merely consider such **PRIOR ART** in its proper perspective, make the same officially of record, and proceed with com-

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**TILTLESS BULK MATERIAL CARGO CONTAINER LINER
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Michael J. McMahon et al.

pletion of the examination of this patent application.

Respectfully Submitted,
SCHWARTZ & WEINRIEB

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'S. Weinrieb', is written over a horizontal line.

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FORM PTO-1449 INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION BY APPLICANT				Sheet <u>1</u> . Of <u>1</u> .			
				Attorney Docket Number: 71-840-1		Serial Number:	
				Applicant: Michael J. McMahon et al.			
				Filing Date: March 16, 2004		Group:	
UNITED STATES PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Exr Init	Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate	
	6,250,488	06-01	Narahara et al.				
	6,207,592	03-01	Nickell				
	5,890,611	04-99	Podd				
	5,657,896	08-97	Matias				
	5,542,563	08-96	Matias				
	5,529,177	06-96	Podd et al.				
	5,511,681	04-96	Podd				
	5,489,037	02-96	Stopper				
	5,421,476	06-95	Matias				
	5,340,218	08-94	Cuthbertson				
	5,222,621	06-93	Matias				
	5,193,710	03-93	Podd, Sr. et al.				
	5,152,735	10-92	Podd, Jr. et al.				
	5,137,170	08-92	Matias				
	5,040,693	08-91	Podd, Sr. et al.				
	4,884,722	12-89	Podd				
	4,541,765	09-85	Moore				
	4,479,243	10-84	Derby et al.				
	4,143,796	03-79	Williamson et al.				
FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
	Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
						Yes	No
	2,461,661	06-81	FRANCE				
OTHER DOCUMENTS							
Examiner:				Date Considered:			